

CLAIMS:

1. A method of establishing a wireless communication connection between a source apparatus (20) and one of a plurality of target apparatuses (11, 12, 13), wherein the effective range of signals used for establishing the communication connection is maintained so small that these signals connect the source apparatus only to a minimal number of target
5 apparatuses (12).
2. A method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that
 - a) the source apparatus (20) transmits search signals (21) whose range (R_d) is increased until they reach a first target apparatus (12);
 - 10 b) a communication connection (22) is established with the target apparatus (12) that has been reached.
3. A method as claimed in claim 1 or 2, characterized in that
 - a) the source apparatus (20) transmits search signals (21);
 - 15 b) a target apparatus (12) responds to the reception of a search signal (21) by means of a reply signal which has a smaller range than the range (R_d) of the search signals;
 - c) a communication connection (22) is established with a target apparatus (12) whose reply signals reach the source apparatus.
- 20 4. A method as claimed in claim 3, characterized in that the range of the reply signal transmitted in step b) is increased until a first reply signal reaches the source apparatus (20).
5. A method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 4, characterized in that the
25 effective range of the search signals and/or the reply signals is changed by changing the reception sensitivity of the receiving apparatus.
6. A method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 5, characterized in that the range (R_c) of the communication signals of the source apparatus (20) and/or the reached

target apparatus (12) is increased after the communication connection (22) has been established.

7. A method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 6, characterized in that the
5 wireless communication connection (22) is established by means of radio signals and is preferably operated in accordance with a Bluetooth protocol.

8. A communication device (11, 12, 13, 20) for operating a wireless
10 communication connection, the communication device comprising a control unit (1) and a communication module (2) connected thereto, the control unit being adapted to control the communication module in accordance with a method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 7.

9. A communication device as claimed in claim 8, characterized in that the
15 control unit (1) comprises a microprocessor and an associated memory, which memory comprises a computer program implementing a method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 7.

10. A patient-monitoring system comprising a plurality of monitoring apparatuses
(11, 12, 13) connected to each patient, and a control apparatus (20) comprising a
20 communication device as claimed in claim 8 or 9.